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Botanical Bulletin.

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SALIX CRISPA.—S. BABYLONICA.—On the grounds of Hon. E. Scudder, Trenton, N. J., are two old willows, *S. crispa* and *S. Babylonica.* The height of the curly willow is about forty feet, and that of the weeper about fifty-five. Between the nearest branches of the two is a distance of about twenty-five feet. The topmost branch of the curly willow, on the side of the tree next to the weeper, is a bough densely covered with leaves. It is about six feet thick and ten feet long. The curious fact is that while the whole tree has the perfect habit of *S. crispa,* this entire bough has the perfect habit of *S. Babylonica.* The long pendent branchlets or twigs, and the leaves in every respect are those of the weeping willow. And this is true not only of the form and habit of the leaves, but with positive exactness also as to color. The true *crispa* leaves are dark and shiny above, and almost a chalky white underneath. The pseudo *Babylonica* leaves are pale yellowish green above and still paler, perhaps pea green, underneath. I compared them with the leaves of the neighboring *Babylonica,* and, excepting perhaps that the leaves of the freak were a little smaller, a fact of no consequence, there was no difference whatever. To the spectator this great branch seems to be a graft, which is not so. It is an interesting evidence of the identity of species in the curly and the weeping willow. Supposing *S. Babylonica* to be the ancestor, we have here the long dormant inherited force asserting itself, and proclaiming the parentage of *S. crispa.* That is, the curly willow is but a variety of the weeping willow.—DR. SAMUEL LOCKWOOD, *Freehold, N. J.*

DOUBLE FLOWERS.—The florist by his art is able in many cases to bring about retrograde metamorphosis, by which the petals are multiplied at the expense of the stamens, and produces thus his so-called double flowers. Nature sometimes does the same thing, but rarely, and all such instances are worthy of note. A few that have fallen under my observation are here put on record. From the woods in the neighborhood of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, I obtained a stalk of *Thalictrum anemonoides,* Mx., now growing in my garden, whose flowers have nearly all the stamens converted into petals. They are very delicate and beautiful, and look like miniature white roses, faintly tinged with pink. From the late Mr. Diffenbaugh I have specimens of *Ranunculus repens,* L., collected near Camden, N. J., which show an additional whorl of petals, making 10 in all. *Saxifraga Virginiensis,* Mx. has also been found on the Delaware below Easton with supernumerary petals. But the crowning example is furnished by *Sagittaria variabilis,* Engelm. Some years ago, when botanizing on an island in the Susquehanna, below Harrisburg, I came upon a large patch of this plant standing up strong and luxuriant from a bed of rich, black mud. Amongst the abundant flower-stalks, I gathered 8 or 10 on which all the pistils in the pistillate flowers and all the stamens in the staminate flowers were replaced by petals, so that both the staminate and pistillate flowers presented the appearance of tiny snow balls. The next season I visited the spot with the intention of securing more specimens, but failed to find one.—PROF. THOS. C. PORTER, *Easton, Pa.*

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